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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 29 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I would like to ask you to have this letter* published as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(signed) Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* The annex is reproduced in the language of submission only.

Annex

I am addressing you and through you all members of the Commission on Human Rights in order to inform you about the tragic situation prevailing in the Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Mass violations of human rights of Serbs, Montenegrins, Turks, Roma, Muslims, Goranci and other non-Albanian population are carried out on a daily basis. Terror is perpetrated by Albanian terrorists and separatists, with, unfortunately, the blessing on the part of KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner.

Terror, intimidation and pressures by the so-called KLA transformed into the so-called Kosovo Protection Corps are perpetrated in cooperation with organized gangs of criminals from Albania and Macedonia.

Organized terrorism against the non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija is a genocide and hatred based on race, nationality, religion and language with a view to achieving the idea of a Greater Albania as an ethnically pure region. It is for that purpose that terrorists have driven out of the Province about 350,000 Serbs and other non-Albanian populations.

From 12 June 1999 to 11 March 2000, that is since KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner assumed responsibility to ensure security and safety in Kosovo and Metohija, as many as 4,481 terrorist attacks were perpetrated there. A total of 860 persons were kidnapped, 933 killed whereas 865 persons were wounded, primarily Serbs. Ethnic cleansing of towns in Kosovo and Metohija is carried out on a permanent basis and settlements still inhabited by Serbs and other non-Albanian populations are subjected to daily armed attacks. About 85 Serbian churches, monasteries and cultural monuments were destroyed and set fire to.

A systematic ethnic cleansing and the carrying out of genocide resulted, among other things, in ghettoization and herding into enclaves of Serbs and non-Albanians. At the same time, more than 250,000 foreign citizens have illegally entered Kosovo and Metohija.

The prisons, run by the terrorist so-called KLA throughout Kosovo and Metohija, house several hundred abducted Serbian civilians, who have been placed in "labor camps" controlled by the so-called KLA. The abductees have been subjected to extremely cruel and inhuman treatment in these "labor camps" located in the village of Maticane, 15 kilometres away from Pristina, as well as in the village of Dusanovo near Prizren and in Drenica. Access to these people is strictly forbidden, even by ICRC representatives.

Additionally, another 350 Serbs, who have been abducted in Kosovo and Metohija, are now in the Republic of Albania.

The international forces in Kosovo and Metohija are aware of the existence of such prisons for the abducted Serbs, but no steps or actions have been taken to get them released. All this, despite the fact that it represents the most inhuman violation of individual human rights and freedoms.

Genocide, ethnic cleansing, lawlessness and terror prevailing in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija are a result of the non-implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on the part of KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner. The protective attitude of KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner towards Albanian terrorism is reflected in the fact that not one perpetrator of crimes has been so far apprehended. It further encourages and exacerbates the atmosphere of terror and lawlessness.

At the same time, KFOR and UNMIK arbitrarily and on the basis of statements and information provided by terrorists of the so-called KLA, arrest and imprison a large number of Serbs and other non-Albanian population. Serbs and other non-Albanians are being held for several months in prisons without indictment, whereas they are not allowed the right to a lawyer.

Yet another proof of the genocidal attitude towards Serbs and other non-Albanian population is the closure of universities, theatres and media outlets in the Serbian language and that in places where Serbs have managed to live in larger numbers. It clearly shows that KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner are accomplices in terrorist acts committed by Albanian terrorists aimed at breaking apart homogenous Serbian communities and pressurizing Serbs to leave Kosovo and Metohija.

The existing violations of human rights of Serbs and other non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija, the level of discrimination based on race, religion, nationality and language carried out in the presence of the UN Mission have no precedent in the recent history of the World Organization. By its tolerant and protective attitude towards the campaign of genocide, ethnic cleansing and terror carried out by Albanian terrorists, the UN Mission drastically violates the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the most important conventions on human rights as well as the UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). By applying an unprecedented policy of double standards, UNMIK bears full responsibility for mass crimes, violations of human rights of Serbs and other non-Albanian population in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija.

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia expects the Commission on Human Rights to most energetically, in accordance with its mandate, condemn genocide and crimes perpetrated in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija. At the same time, the Government of the FR of Yugoslavia considers that the Commission on Human Rights must take all necessary measures for full protection of human rights and freedoms of the entire population in Kosovo and Metohija regardless of its national or religious origin and to condemn in strongest terms the perpetrators and protectors of genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass violations of human rights of the non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija.